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Message Text

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51
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 SP-02 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 L-01 /051 W
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P R 191303Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2252
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2263

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, PO, CV, US
SUBJ: LAJES NEGOTIONS

1. IN PRIVATE MEETING AT HIS REQUEST LAST NIGHT (APRIL 18) FONMIN MELO ANTUNES ASKED ME ABOUT STATUS OF LAJES NEGOTIATIONS. TOLD HIM TO BEST OF MY RECOLLECTION BALL WAS IN GOP COURT. AMB. MC CLOSKEY HAD DELIVERED A NOTE TO AMB. THEMIDO SOME TIME AGO, TO WHICH WE HAD NOT RECEIVED REPLY. I ASSUMED THAT GOP HAD BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

2. ANTUNES SAID THAT HE NOW HAD LAJES FILE ON HIS DESK. AS SOON AS ELECTIONS WERE OVER HE HOPED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH NEGOTIATIONS. WE OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THIS MATTER THAT IS IN INTEREST OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

3. I TOLD HIM WERE READY AT ANYTIME TO PROCEED. WHILE WASHINGTON HAD BEEN LOCUS OF NEGOTIONS I WAS SURE FROM MY CONVERSATIONS WITH AMB. MC CLOSKEY THAT A TEAM COULD COME HERE IF THE FONMIN PREFERRED TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS IN LISBON.

4. COMMENT: MELO ANTUNES IS TAKING HIS JOB SERIOUSLY. I THINK WE CAN GET MUCH FURTHER WITH HIM ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS THAN WE COULD WITH SOARES, WHO IS MISTRUSTED BY AFM LEADERSHIP AND PUT
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POLITICS AHEAD OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS FONMIN. ANTUNES IS

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DISLIKED BY VASCO GONCALVES, BUT HAS GOOD REVOLUTIONARY CREDENTIALS AND IS RESPECTED BY THE MILITARY. MOREOVER FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS RESPONSIBILITY OF PRESIDENT, NOT PRIME MINISTER. BY DEALING DIRECTLY WITH ANTUNES AND THROUGH HIM, WITH COSTA GOMES, WE MAY BE ABLE TO WORK AROUND VASCO GONCALVES, WHO CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE A PROBLEM SHOULD BE BECOME INVOLVED.

5. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ANTUNES IS ANXIOUS TO CONSUMMATE NEGOTIATIONS TO INCREASE HIS OWN PRESTIGE (AND POSSIBLY COSTA GOMES') IN HIS POWER STRUGGLE WITH VASCO GONCALVES. IF SO WE MAY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GENERATE SOME MOTION.
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